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A Review of the Genus *Nipus* Casey (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae)

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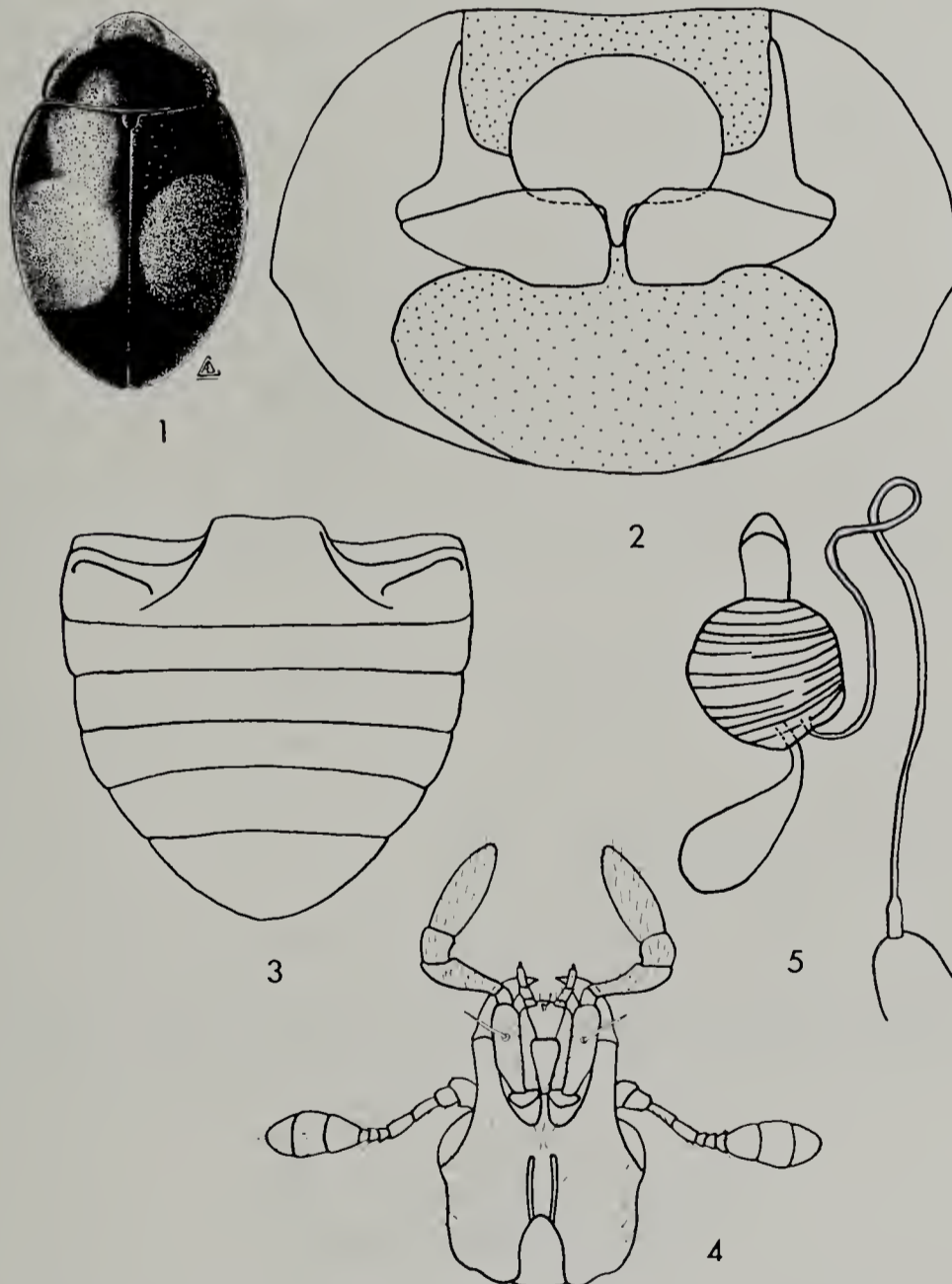
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The tribe Cranophorini was proposed by Casey (1899) for the North American genus *Nipus* Casey, the South African genus *Cranophorus* Mulsant, and the Neotropical genus *Oryssomus* Mulsant. Since then, 5 other genera have been placed in the tribe by various authors.

Nipus must be removed from the Cranophorini and placed in the Sticholotini near *Microweisea* Cockerell. The only character that *Nipus* shares with the other genera in the Cranophorini is the concealed head. The elongate head, long maxillary palpus with conical last segment, asymmetrical male genitalia



Figs. 1-5. Fig. 1, *Nipus occiduus*, n. sp. Fig. 2, *Nipus biplagiatus*, prosternum. Fig. 3, *Nipus occiduus*, n. sp., abdomen. Fig. 4, *Nipus occiduus*, n. sp., underside of head. Fig. 5, *Nipus biplagiatus*, spermatheca, sperm duct, accessory gland.

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and prosternum with an anterior lobe are characteristic of a group of genera presently included in the Sticholotini. These are the South American genera *Coccidophilus* Brèthes and *Stictospilus* Brèthes, the North American genera *Microweisea* Cockerell, *Cryptoweisea* Gordon, and *Gnathoweisea* Gordon. *Nipus* is distinct from these 5 genera in having the head concealed beneath the pronotum.

The habitus view of *Nipus occiduus*, n. sp., was prepared by Arthur Cushman.

Nipus Casey

Nipus Casey, 1899, pp. 132-133. Type-species *Nipus biplagiatus* Casey, by subsequent designation of Korschefsky 1931.

Form elongate-oval, convex, upper surface with short, sparse, erect pubescence. Pronotum elongate, anterior margin not emarginate, produced forward, concealing head in dorsal view. Head elongate, clypeus prolonged anterior to antennal insertion. Antenna inserted dorsolaterally, anterior to eye, 10-segmented: first segment large, twice as long as second; second short; third and fourth long, slender; fifth, sixth and seventh similar and nearly equal; eighth, ninth and tenth forming a club, ninth segment slightly longer than others in club (fig. 4). Terminal segment of maxillary palpus not securiform, narrowing apically (fig. 4). Labial palpus short, inserted at apex of labium (fig. 4). Prosternum with anterior lobe pronounced, semicircular, nearly concealing mouthparts in ventral view (fig. 2). Elytral epipleura narrow, horizontal, not foveolate for reception of the femoral apices. Abdomen with 6 visible sterna (fig. 3). Metacoxal arcs incomplete, inner line extending diagonally from intercoxal process two-thirds the distance to hind margin of sternum, outer line extending from near lateral margin of sternum along posterior margin of coxal cavity, abruptly turning downward before reaching inner line (figs. 3, 6). Legs with femora slightly thickened, tibiae slender, tarsi 3-segmented, tarsal claws thickened at base, without basal tooth (figs. 12, 13, 14). Male genitalia: basal lobe knife-like, longer than parameres, asymmetrical; parameres unequal, left paramere very short, right paramere long; siphon slightly tapering in apical one-third, abruptly narrowing before apex. Female genitalia: (fig. 5) spermatheca round, ball-like; cornu prominent, parallel sided; sperm duct long; infundibulum present; genital plates elongate triangular, styli present.

Key to Species of *Nipus*

1. Each elytron with a pale red or yellow spot, or a red or yellow band across elytra 2
Elytra without spot or band 3
2. Body elongate, parallel-sided; California **biplagiatus** Casey
Body elongate-oval, not parallel-sided; Arizona, Utah **occiduus**, n. sp.
3. Elytra brownish piceous, margin not paler; coarsely and densely punctured;
California **niger** Casey
Elytra dark brown, each elytron with lateral and sutural margins pale; punctures fine, sparse;
Arizona **planatus**, n. sp.

Nipus biplagiatus Casey

(Figs. 6, 9, 10, 12, 14)

Nipus biplagiatus Casey, 1899, p. 133.

Male and female.—Length 1.25 to 1.50 mm., width 0.75 to 0.82 mm. Form elongate, parallel-sided, abruptly narrowing posteriorly. Color piceous, a large median spot on each elytron and anterior margin of pronotum yellow, ventral surface uniformly yellowish brown. Pronotum lacking punctures except at base, strongly alutaceous. Elytra smooth, shining, coarse punctures

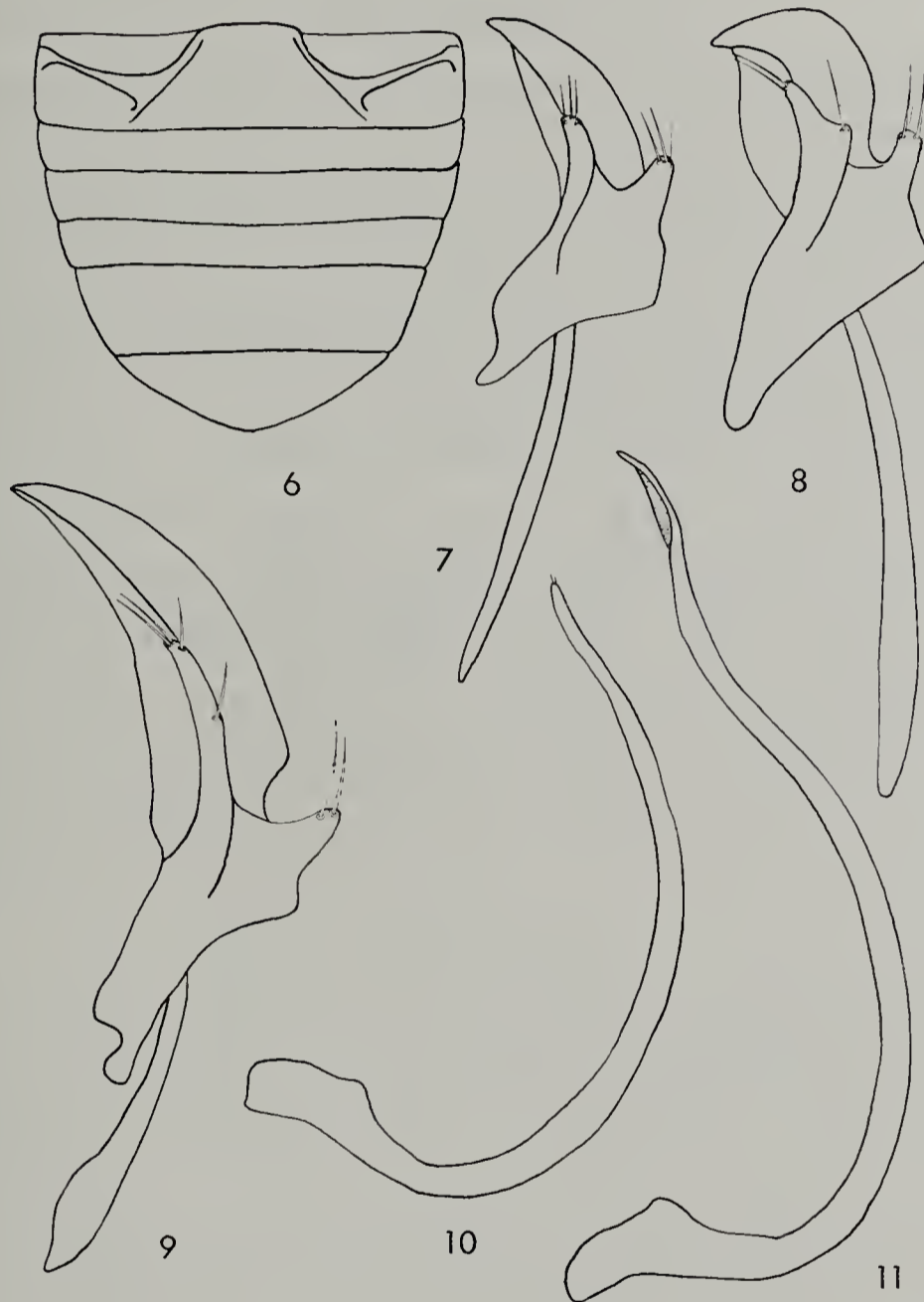
separated by their diameter or less. Male genitalia with basal lobe long, twice as long as right paramere (fig. 9); sipho abruptly tapering before apex, apex slightly twisted (fig. 10).

Variation.—The elytral spots may be united at the suture, giving the appearance of a broad band rather than individual spots.

Type locality.—Los Angeles, California.

Type depository.—U.S. National Museum of Natural History.

Distribution.—Southern California.



Figs. 6-11. Fig. 6, *Nipus biplagiatus*, abdomen. Figs. 7-11, male genitalia. Fig. 7, *Nipus planatus*, n. sp., lateral view of phallobase; fig. 8, *Nipus occiduus*, n. sp., lateral view of phallobase; fig. 9, *Nipus biplagiatus*, lateral view of phallobase; fig. 10, *Nipus biplagiatus*, siphon; fig. 11, *Nipus occiduus*, n. sp., siphon.

Nipus niger Casey

Nipus niger Casey, 1899, p. 133.

Female.—Length 1.05 mm., width 0.70 mm. Form elongate-oval, gradually narrowing posteriorly. Color brownish piceous, anterior margin pale, undersurface brown. Pronotum lacking punctures except at base, strongly alutaceous. Elytra smooth, shining, coarse punctures separated by less than their diameter.

Type locality.—Sonoma County, California.

Type depository.—U.S. National Museum of Natural History.

Distribution.—Specimens seen from Humboldt, Santa Clara and Sonoma Counties, California. No males were available for examination. The type is a female as are the other 5 specimens in the NMNH collection.

Nipus planatus, n. sp.

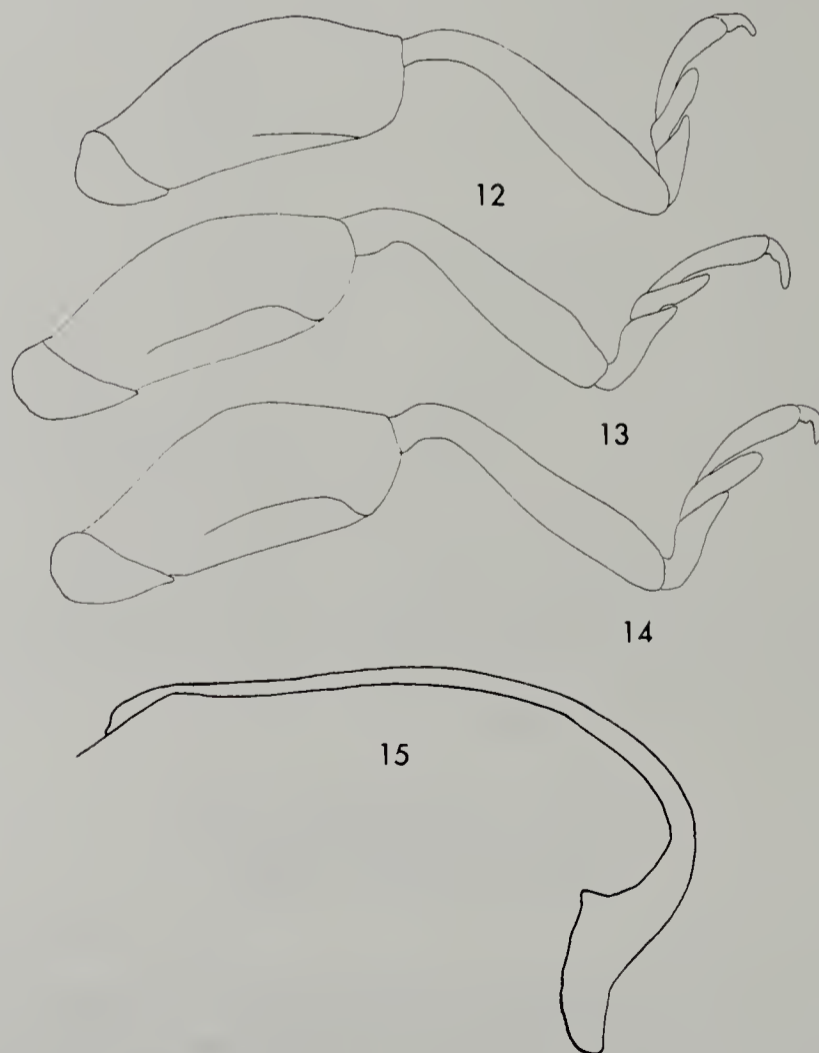
(Figs. 7, 15)

Holotype male.—Length 1.20 mm., width 0.82 mm. Color dark brown, nearly piceous, a narrow margin completely surrounding each elytron and anterior and lateral margins of pronotum yellowish brown, underside brown, mouthparts and legs yellowish brown. Pronotum strongly alutaceous, faintly punctured at base, pubescence sparse, decumbent. Elytra shining, not alutaceous, finely punctured, punctures separated by 2 to 3 times their diameter. Genitalia with basal lobe short, broad, apex not abruptly bent downward, left paramere very short, broad, right paramere long, narrow (fig. 7); siphon constricted slightly before apex, apex thickened, narrowing to a fine point, bent downward (fig. 15).

Variation.—Length 1.19 to 2.24 mm., width 0.81 to 0.84 mm.

Holotype.—Salida, Colorado, VII-6, Wickham, Wickham collection (U.S. NMNH 70851).

Paratypes.—(3) 2, Bright Angel Camp, Ariz., VII-14, 6900 ft., Wickham; 1, Bright Angel Camp, Ariz., VII-15, 6900 ft. Wickham. All paratypes in NMNH collection.



Figs. 12-15. Figs. 12-14, *Nipus biplagiatus*, legs: fig. 12, proleg; fig. 13, middle leg; fig. 14, hind leg. Fig. 15, *Nipus planatus*, n. sp., siphon.

Nipus occiduus, n. sp.

(Figs. 1, 3, 4, 8, 11)

Holotype male.—Length 1.21 mm., width 0.75 mm. Color piceous, a spot on each elytron and the anterior margin of pronotum yellowish brown, underside piceous, legs and mouthparts slightly paler. Pronotum strongly alutaceous, faintly punctured basally, pubescence sparse, decumbent. Elytra shining, not alutaceous, punctured, punctures separated by slightly more than their diameter. Prosternum, elytral epipleura and metasternum faintly alutaceous, indistinctly punctured. Abdominal sterna strongly alutaceous, faint punctures separated by their diameter or more. Genitalia with basal lobe very short, broader than long, apex abruptly bent downward, left paramere short, broad, right paramere elongate, narrow (fig. 8); siphon constricted slightly before apex, apex bent downward (fig. 11).

Variation.—Length 1.20 to 1.24 mm., width 0.75 to 0.78 mm. The pale spot on each elytron occupies one-half to two-thirds of the elytron.

Holotype.—Wasatch, Utah, 27-6, coll. Hubbard & Schwarz (U.S. NMNH 70852).

Paratypes.—(5) 2, Santa Rita Mts., Ariz., 11-6, Coll. Hubbard & Schwarz; 1, Chiricahua Mts., Ariz., 206, coll. Hubbard & Schwarz; 1, Oracle, Ariz., 6-7, coll. Hubbard & Schwarz; 1, Millers Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Ariz. All paratypes in NMNH collection.

Two other specimens from Williams, Arizona, are tentatively placed as this species; both are females and are teneral.

N. occiduus closely resembles *N. biplagiatus* in external appearance. *N. occiduus* is not as elongate and parallel-sided as *biplagiatus* and the male genitalia are quite different. So far the ranges of the two species are not known to overlap.

References

- CASEY, T. L. 1899. A revision of the American Coccinellidae. J. New York Entomol. Soc. 7:71-169.
KORSCHESKY, R. 1931. Coleopterorum catalogus, pars. 18, Coccinellidae I, pp. 1-224. (Vol. XVI).
DESCRIPTORS: Coleoptera; Coccinellidae; *Nipus*; new species; key; Arizona, southern California, Colorado, and Utah.
3.0019. A review of the genus *Nipus* Casey (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae)
ABSTRACT—Two new species of *Nipus* from Arizona, southern California, Colorado, and Utah *N. planatus* and *N. occiduus* Gordon are described and the genus reviewed.